

Water Resources Development Act 2010

Thursday, 03 December 2009

The Water Resources Development Act (“WRDA”) is the comprehensive water resources law typically authorized every two years. Specifically, WRDA authorizes studies and projects within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mission areas including navigation, flood damage reduction, hurricane and storm damage reduction, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration.

Below is a list of 13th District project requests that I have submitted to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for consideration under WRDA. These requests are alphabetized and are not in order of priority. Please keep in mind that the funding process is competitive and that none of these projects are guaranteed funding.

This webpage will be updated if and when the Water Resources Development Act of 2010 is passed into law.

Airport Perimeter Dike Improvements Project (\$32,000,000) – Requested by the Port of Oakland. This project involves repairing and improving the perimeter dike that surrounds the south airfield and serves as the flood protection system for the airport. The dike was constructed as part of the original airfield development in the late 1950s with dredged bay mud. The enclosed area was then “reclaimed” by filling it with hydraulically placed sand fill. The improvement of this critical infrastructure is vital in order to protect Oakland International Airport against flooding via a breach and/or over-topping due to storm or seismic events. It is critical to public safety that Oakland International Airport remains in continuous operation, especially after a seismic event that could affect the regional transportation network.

Recycled Water Project (\$10,000,000) – Requested by the City of Hayward. The City of Hayward proposes to implement a recycled water project that would enable the City to supplement its potable water supply with recycled water for irrigation and industrial uses. The City would recycle and reuse about 500,000 gallons of treated wastewater from the City-owned water pollution control facility.

San Leandro Shoreline Marshland Project (\$500,000) – Requested by the City of San Leandro. The San Leandro Marshland is a 400-acre wetland area providing habitat for endangered and threatened species as well as a migratory bird refuge. The wetland area is protected by a levee and trail approximately 1.3 miles in length, running north to south along San Francisco Bay, and then turns east for about 450 yards over an inland levee and wooden bridge. A multi-purpose recreational and interpretive public access trail and emergency access road built over levees, which were originally constructed to protect urban and wetland areas along the San Francisco Bay. Due to storm and wave action, levee embankments at various locations have been eroded. The requested WRDA funding will be used to restore levees to prevent breaching of the levees and inundation of the wetlands and improvement to the existing interpretive trail system to provide better public enjoyment of the area.

San Lorenzo Creek Project (\$2,000,000) – Requested by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The District was informed in 2007 that FEMA has now assessed that the lower portion of the San Lorenzo Creek would be vulnerable to damage from a 100-year storm event. The impact of this new floodplain designation is that the constituents located in this area (close to 2,500 residents) are now required to purchase mandatory flood insurance to be eligible for claim submission in the event of any damage resulting from flooding in this area, as well as a prerequisite for application for any federally backed mortgages on property located in these newly identified flood prone areas.

The District has completed a hydrology and hydraulic analysis including alternative analysis and preliminary cost estimates to implement flood mitigation improvements in this area of the San Lorenzo Creek. The proposed

improvements will provide increased flood protection to contain 100-year design flow within San Lorenzo Creek, reduce the potential for future flooding, enable the District to apply to FEMA with a Letter of Map Revision to remove the 100-year floodplain designation, and eliminate the mandatory requirement to purchase flood insurance for affected residents.

Shoreline Realignment Plan (\$24,800,000) – Requested by the City of Hayward. Funds for this project will be used for the purpose of reducing risks and maintaining the natural and human functions of the City of Hayward shoreline by adapting infrastructure and land uses vulnerable to rising sea levels. In the coming century, the effects of global warming through sea level rise will become a major issue for the low-lying lands surrounding San Francisco Bay. The Hayward Shoreline is already vulnerable to inundation from coastal flooding – a combination of tides, storm surges, wave run-up and storm water runoff. The California Resources Agency presently recommends that agencies in coastal area plan for sea-level rise of 16 inches by 2050 and 55 inches by 2100. With higher sea levels, storm surge conditions may combine to create short-term extremely high water levels that can inflict damage to areas that were not previously at risk.

The Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA) consists of the City of Hayward, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, and the East Bay Regional Park District. HASPA has commissioned the preparation of a Sea Level Rise Study, which will be released in December 2009. The Study will present alternatives for adapting to the rising sea level. Funding would be used for a long-term Shoreline Realignment Plan as well as for significant improvements to levees (many of which are topped with public trails) and flood channels, flood gates, and storm water pump stations.